

## Puzzling Puzzles 拼图片片，想象无限

Have you ever done a [wasgij](#) or a [photomosaic](#)? Or are you feeling puzzled? Well, maybe you haven't **puzzled over** a wasgij, but chances are you've pieced together a jigsaw puzzle.

你做过 wasgij 或相片马赛克吗？还是你正觉得困惑不已？也许你还没有为了玩 wasgij 绞尽脑汁过，但是你应该曾经拼过拼图。

The jigsaw dates back to the 1760s, when London-based mapmaker [John Spilsbury](#) stuck one of his maps to a sheet of wood. He cut around the **borders** of the countries, creating an educational game that would help schoolchildren learn geography. Later, manufacturers would use different materials, like **plywood** and **cardboard**, and experiment with **diverse** designs. Soon, jigsaws were more than a learning tool; they became a popular pastime.

拼图的历史最早可追溯到 1760 年代，伦敦地图制作者约翰·史毕尔斯伯里把他的其中一张地图贴到一片木板上。他沿着国家边界切割，创造出一种寓教于乐的游戏用以帮助学童学习地理。后来，制造商会用胶合板或是硬纸板之类不同材质制作拼图，并且实验各种不同的设计。不久，拼图不只是一个学习的工具；它们变成一种受欢迎的休闲嗜好。

Over the years, jigsaws grew more **complicated**, with more pieces. **So-called** impossipuzzles have repetitive designs, like [Smarties](#) or baked beans, and are extremely difficult to solve. There's even a picture-less jigsaw, as well as [3D puzzles](#) of globes, cities, and **skyscrapers**.

这些年来，拼图的发展由于片数增加而变得更加复杂困难。所谓的「不可能的拼图」有着重复性的图案设计，例如雀巢聪明豆或是烤豆子，因此相当难解。甚至还有没有图案的拼图，以及球体、城市和摩天大楼等的 3D 立体拼图。

Are you still confused about the wasgij? Well, it's a "**cult** jigsaw." The picture on the box shows a different **perspective** than the puzzle inside. In case you hadn't noticed, wasgij is jigsaw spelled backwards! The photomosaic might also have you **scratching** your head. Close up, many varied little images are visible, but from a distance, the eye sees one single complete picture.

你还在苦思 wasgij 是什么吗？它是一种深受某些狂热份子所喜爱的拼图。拼图外盒上的图案所呈现的是完成图的另一个面向。万一你还没注意到，wasgij 其实就是 jigsaw 这个字的颠倒拼法。相片马赛克可能也让你想破头了。当近看时相片马赛克能看到一幅幅不同的小张图画，但是远看就会看到一张完整的图画。

**Alternatively**, you could try the world's largest jigsaw, with 24,000 pieces! For those without the space for a puzzle of these **dimensions**, try an online jigsaw instead. There are numerous options for jigsaw fun. So don't **fall to pieces** – take a deep breath and start solving the puzzle piece by piece!

另外，你还可以尝试世界上最大的拼图，高达两万四千片！至于那些没有空间能放得下如此大尺寸拼

图的人，可以改尝试在线拼图。有许多能体验拼图乐趣的方式，所以别崩溃得太快，先来个深呼吸再开始一片片地拼拼图吧！

— by Alice Davis

## Vocabulary

**puzzle over:** 苦苦思索,为…大伤脑筋 try to solve

**border** [ˈbɔrdə] n. 边界, 边境, 国界

**cardboard** [ˈkɑrd,bɔrd] n. 硬纸板

**diverse** [daɪˈvɜːs] adj. 多种多样的; 多变化的

**complicated** [ˈkɑmpləˌketɪd] adj. 复杂的; 结构复杂的

**so-called** [ˈsoˈkɔld] adj. 所谓的; 号称的

**skyscraper** [ˈskaɪ,skreɪpə] n. 摩天楼, 超高层大楼

**perspective** [pəˈspektɪv] n. 看法, 观点

**scratch** [skrætʃ] v. 抓; 搔

**alternatively** [ɔlˈtɜːnətɪvli] adv. 要不然; 或者

**dimension** [dɪˈmɛnʃən] n. (长, 宽, 厚, 高等的) 尺寸

**fall to pieces:** 跌得粉碎,散开,坍塌 to become emotionally upset

## More Information

**wasgij** [ˈwɑzɡɪdʒ] (n. 拼图的一种)

**photomosaic** [ˌfotəməˈzeɪk] n. 像片镶嵌图; 照相拼接

**plywood** [ˈplaɪ,wʊd] n. 夹板; 胶合板

**cult:** [kʌlt] adj. 受特定群体欢迎的;在特定群体中流行的 an exclusive group of persons sharing an esoteric, usually artistic or intellectual interest